

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 SAM-01 SAB-01

SAJ-01 FEA-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 /082 W

----- 029164

P R 051500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2579

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2463

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL: CAIRO MEETING

REF: CAIRO 2315

1. AFTER TWO-DAY HIATUS RESULTING FROM VISIT TO SUEZ CANAL AREA (MAR 3) AND EFFORT TO PREPARE FOR FINAL SESSION (MAR 4), COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHGOUB HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAR 5 TO MARK CLOSE OF 10-DAY SESSION OF BOYCOTT COMMISSION. IN CONTRAST WITH SOME OF EARLIER APPEARANCES, MAHGOUB HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY OF NOTE. MAJORITY OF PRESENTATION WAS REPETITION AND SUMMARY OF WHAT HAD GONE BEFORE.

2. AS IN PAST, MAHGOUB MENTIONED NUMBERS RELATING TO FIRMS ADDED OR DROPPED FROM BLACKLIST, BUT HE DID NOT GIVE ALL NAMES, AND FIGURES DO NOT CORRESPOND TO PREVIOUS LISTS. SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS MADE TO "PARTIAL BOYCOTT" OF LEYLAND AND SONY, TWO COMPANIES TO BE COMPLETELY REMOVED WHEN THEY HAVE MADE APPROPRIATE INVESTMENTS, FORMER IN EGYPT AND LATTER SAUDI ARABIA.

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3. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT MAJOR US FIRMS, SUCH AS FORD, COCA COLA,
AND XEROX.

4. COMMISSION WILL MEET AGAIN IN SIX MONTHS, AT SITE TO BE DETERMINED
M

5. COMMENT: MAHGOUB WENT OUT WITH MORE OF A WHIMPER THAN A BANG.
HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST EVINCED IN EARLY SESSION WAS LARGELY LACKING.
IF NOT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT STATEMENTS ABOUT LEGITIMACY
OF BOYCOTT AS A MEANS OF
SELF-DEFENSE (FACT THAT BOYCOTT IS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC, ET,)
MAHGOUB WOULD HAVE HAD LITERALLY NOTHING TO SAY.
EILTS

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